

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the FY09 Defense Appropriations bill approved by the U.S. House of Representatives includes \$2.4 million for two North Worcester County defense companies. Olver is a member of the Appropriations Committee and worked to secure the funding in the bill.

Yesterday the House approved the Defense, Homeland Security, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bills. The remaining nine FY09 appropriations bills were passed in a Continuing Resolution package which funds government at FY08 levels until March. The Senate must now vote on the Defense Appropriations bill before it is sent to the president for his signature.

Fosta-Tek's

Lightweight Soldier Combat Optics - \$1,200,000

This funding will be used to help Fosta-Tek, a company in Leominster, transition specialty combat optics products for our military away from glass (much of which comes from overseas) and toward lightweight and lower-cost polymers that are designed and manufactured in the U.S.

The project will support 20 existing engineering and manufacturing jobs and will create 30 new jobs in Leominster.

Congressman John Olver said, "This project makes good sense from both an economic and scientific point of view. Our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan operate in desert climates and uncertain terrain. This kind of environment is especially harsh on specialty optics. Not only are polymers better suited than glass to withstand environmental difficulties, but polymer-based products are also lighter, less expensive, and can be produced right here at home."

Fosta-Tek's market focus is providing superior polymer-based optical products and solutions to industrial, military and OEM markets, including automotive, safety, medical and consumer eyewear. Fosta-Tek employs over 100 people and operates from 70,000 square feet of production and office space.

mZeal's Dynamically Managed Data Dissemination - \$1,200,000

This funding will be used to create a data dissemination service to mitigate the bandwidth bottleneck between different echelons and communications networks on the battlefield.

“The infrastructure of today’s commercial wireless communications allows us to communicate with ease via laptops, cell phones and small hand held devices. However, in the battlefield this commercial infrastructure doesn’t exist,” said Congressman John Olver. “This project will ensure that our soldiers can reliably communicate with each other on the battlefield and access the information they need to stay safe.”

mZeal Communications is located in Fitchburg’s Putnam Place. The company provides innovative technology solutions specializing in software development, bandwidth management services for wireless communications, adaptive middleware, actionable intelligence, and wireless ad-hoc and mesh networking solutions for U.S Army and other federal government agencies.

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